

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 080844Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4671

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS ROME 6296

1. PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES ARRIVED ROME FROM HELSINKI MAY 5 ACCOMPANIED BY SIMON DE JESAS SOARES AND JORGE CAMPILLO (OR CAMPINOS), CHIEF OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. SOARES WAS RECEIVED BY "LOWER RANKING OFFICIALS" OF PORTUGUESE EMBASSY AND SMALL DELEGATION FROM ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR NOT PRESENT.

2. DURING VISIT, SOARES MET WITH ITALIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT MARIO TANASSI (GOI MIN. OF FINANCE) AND PIETRO NENNI, PRESIDENT OF ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND VICE SECRETARY OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. HE LEFT ROME MORNING MAY 6 FOR PORTUGAL.

3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN SOCIALIST HEADQUARTERS, SOARES SAID POPULAR SUPPORT FOR MILITARY "INSURRECTION" RESPONSIBLE FOR TOPPLING CAETANO REGIME AND AFFIRMED HE HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF COUP. TURNING TO OTHER TOPICS, HE DECLARED THAT NO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT EXISTS IN PORTUGAL, BUT THAT A "PARTY OF THE CENTER" IS BEING CREATED AS INDISPENSABLE COMPONENT IN FUTURE GOVERNMENT COALITION. ON SPAIN, HE STATED THAT PORTUGAL WILL NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES BUT EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH SPANISH DEMOCRATS. SOARES CHARACTERIZED US ATTITUDE TOWARD EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AS POSITIVE DESPITE CONCERN FOR RAPID SURFACING OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

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4. ACCORDING PRESS, ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY PROMISED ACTIVELY

TO HELP PORTUGUESE IN EFFORTS TO RE-ESTABLISH "INSTITUTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC LIFE". NO DETAILS OF TANASSI-SOARES MEETING AVAILABLE, BUT SOARES DECLARED AT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ECONOMIC AID FOR PORTUGAL WAS MAIN SUBJECT DISCUSSED WITH BOTH NENNI AND TANASSI.

5. SOARES REPORTEDLY INVITED PSI PRESIDENT NENNI AND PARTY SECRETARY FRANCESCO DE MARTINO TO VISIT PORTUGAL IN NEAR FUTURE. VOLPE

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